Washington - Congresswoman Linda Sánchez was sworn in to her third term on Thursday as Democrats began the 110th Congress with historic achievements.

"I am honored and humbled to begin a new term representing the people of our district," said Congresswoman Sánchez. "I understand the responsibility they have given me, and I promise my hard work and commitment to do the right thing for our communities."

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat from Northern California, became the first woman and the first Californian in U.S. history to ever be elected as Speaker of the House of Representatives, a position that puts her second in line for the presidency. Speaker Pelosi immediately led her colleagues on another historical accomplishment - passing the first part of a landmark ethics reform package designed to end the unfair influence of lobbyists in Washington.

"In this House, we may belong to different parties, but we serve one country," Speaker Pelosi said in addressing Congress. "In order to achieve a new America, we must return this House to the American people. So our first order of business is passing the toughest ethics reform in history."

Congresswoman Sánchez and her colleagues in the congressional delegation from California were invited to escort Mrs. Pelosi on her formal introduction as Speaker of the House.

"This is a great day for California," said Congresswoman Sánchez. "Speaker Pelosi will be a great leader for our nation and provide a stronger voice for our state, which has led economic, environmental, and technological innovation over the last few generations.

"Now let's get to work," said Congresswoman Sánchez.